

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image reading apparatus comprising:
illuminating means for illuminating image
information of an original placed on an original
5 support, said illuminating means including a
plurality of light source portions;
reading means; and
image forming means for imaging the image
information on said reading means, the image
10 information being read in a two-dimensional manner by
changing a relative position between the image
information and said reading means, and said
plurality of light source portions being disposed
asymmetrically with respect to the optical axis of
15 said image forming means in a sub-scanning cross-
sectional plane.
2. An image reading apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein said plurality of light source
20 portions are adapted to be simultaneously lighted,
and illuminate the image information.
3. An image reading apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein said plurality of light source
25 portions have the same shape or/and the same
illumination characteristics.

4. An image reading apparatus comprising:
illuminating means for illuminating image
information of an original placed on an original
support, said illuminating means including a
5 plurality of light source portions, and a plurality
of reflective portions provided corresponding to said
plurality of light source portions and adapted to
reflect light from said light source portions toward
a side of the image information, respectively;
10 reading means; and
image forming means for imaging the image
information on said reading means, the image
information being read in a two-dimensional manner by
changing a relative position between the image
15 information and said reading means, and said
plurality of reflective portions being disposed
asymmetrically with respect to the optical axis of
said image forming means in a sub-scanning cross-
sectional plane.

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5. An image reading apparatus according to
claim 4, wherein said plurality of light source
portions are disposed asymmetrically with respect to
the optical axis of said image forming means in the
25 sub-scanning cross-sectional plane.

6. An image reading apparatus according to

claim 4, wherein said plurality of light source portions are adapted to be simultaneously lighted, and illuminate the image information.

5 7. An image reading apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said plurality of light source portions have the same shape or/and the same illumination characteristics.

10 8. An image reading apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said plurality of reflective portions have mutually different shapes.